United Nations A/57/131

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Item 89 (f) of the preliminary list*
Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/198 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on, inter alia, measures taken for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and in response to General Assembly resolution 55/203 of 20 December 2000, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development.

The report gives an account of ongoing activities and new measures taken by agencies of the United Nations system, national Governments and regional organizations for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and assesses the progress made in promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development. The report concludes with suggestions on how to improve the further implementation of the Programme of Action, keeping in mind the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

* A/57/50/Rev.1.

02-41997 (E) 020802

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/198 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", in which it, inter alia: (a) invited the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[1] in their programmes; (b) urged all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States; (c) called upon the Secretary-General to consider cost-effective ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/203 of 20 December 2000, entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development", in which it, inter alia: (a) called upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste; (b) called upon all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation; and (c) called upon all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

4. In the preparation of the present report, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including relevant regional commissions, were approached for submissions of updated accounts of activities undertaken in the context of the Programme of Action and the promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area. A number of those organizations responded, providing brief reports of activities since 2001; their submissions served as the sole source of information on their activities for that period.

5. The present report also includes information on activities undertaken at the regional level under the Programme of Action by non-United Nations intergovernmental regional bodies and by a number of Governments at the national level.

II. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

6. During the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, special consideration was given to small island developing States in the Chairman's paper. The Singapore Declaration of the Alliance of Small Island States Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit also reaffirmed the objectives and

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

commitments of the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which called for renewed efforts to achieve its full implementation. In this regard, many agencies of the United Nations system and Governments and other institutions have continued to assist small island developing States in their developmental efforts. An account of activities undertaken is given below.

A. International level

1. Capacity-building

7. During the reporting period, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continued to host the Small Island Developing States Network. Phase II of this project is currently under way, its main objective being to enhance the Network's regional presence and capacity-building. In this regard, the Government of France is funding a focal point for the Indian Ocean region. Two other focal points, for the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, respectively, will be financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In addition, the Department, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, continues to be an active partner in the capacity development initiatives of the Alliance of Small Island States. In this context, the Department has actively supported the Alliance's Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Singapore in January 2002.

2. Climate change and sea level rise

8. In this area, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), organized workshops on the regional impact of climate change, in order to provide Caribbean small island developing States with accurate information on climate change and variability and to provide guidance on adaptation. A policy document was developed and the report entitled "Climate change in the Caribbean and the challenge of adaptation" will be published in 2002.

3. Natural and environmental disasters

9. Natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones, are recurring phenomena in small island developing States regions and have potentially disastrous impacts, as one single natural disaster alone can undermine years of economic development. Means of crucial long-term preventive measures include, in particular, effective warning and preparedness systems. The World Meteorological Organization continued to assist the efforts of small island developing States to apply and implement those disaster-reduction and response measures through its tropical cyclone programmes. The programmes focus mainly on capacity-building through regular training, seminars and workshops with respect to improved warning and response strategies. In the Caribbean, most recent improvements have been made to replace communication links vulnerable to tropical cyclones with a satellite-based communication system.

10. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has engaged in a global review of disaster-reduction initiatives and trends. Both the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency elaborated reports on institutional capacities, risk assessment, status of early warning dissemination and public awareness to deal with disaster management and vulnerability reduction.

4. Management of wastes

11. In the field of waste management, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues to deliver assistance to small island developing States in the areas of industrial policy support, preventive measures through cleaner production and related technologies, and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in order to reduce the amount of waste from land-based activities that affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters.

5. Coastal and marine resources

12. Under this priority area, UNEP, through its Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Coordination Office, is working with several small island developing States on the implementation of the Programme. Multi-stakeholder regional meetings were organized jointly by the Regional Seas secretariats and

UNEP regional offices, to further implement the United Nations Environment Programme/World Health Organization/United Nations Human Settlements Programme/Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater. As part of the Global Plan of Action Clearing-House Mechanism, regional nodes are being developed both in the Caribbean and in the South Pacific regions. Through the International Coral Reef Action Network, UNEP is also working with a number of small island developing States to improve local coral reef protection and management, with community involvement wherever possible. A project addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean, in which a number of small island developing States are slated to participate is currently in the final stage of preparation and the project "Development and protection of the coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa" is ongoing with the participation of, inter alia, Mauritius and Seychelles.

6. Freshwater resources

13. In this area, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the cooperation of the Government of the Netherlands, has fielded a water specialist in support of the water programme of SOPAC.

14. UNEP is promoting the adoption and use of rainwater harvesting, empowering women to manage water resources, and the use of renewable energy through a two-year pilot project on empowering women in rainwater harvesting in the Pacific atoll which is being implemented by SOPAC. Furthermore, UNEP/GEF is strengthening the response of small island developing States to global environmental challenges primarily through its International Waters portfolio.

7. Land resources

15. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) initiated a Participatory Smallholder Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme on the islands of Sao Tome and Principe in 2001 which was co-financed by the Government of France. The programme is aimed at some 41 per cent of the population of Sao Tome, including smallholder families and fishermen, assisting them in improving market access and diversification through, inter alia, rural sector services, including decentralized financial services, agriculture extension and coastal fisheries management. In Grenada, the International Fund provides assistance through the Rural Enterprise Project (co-financed by the Caribbean Development Bank) to at least 3,000 households operating agricultural smallholdings or microenterprises. Further assistance will be provided in the form of project investments, training in design and production techniques, safety, health and handling, and gaining improved market access. The project, which has a gender-equity approach, should lead to greater employment opportunities and higher productivity in the agricultural sector, positively affecting household food security and improving nutrition through, among other things, improved processing technologies and livestock development measures. Further ongoing programmes aim at the alleviation of rural poverty, supporting smallholders, and rural development in a number of small island developing States, such as Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Dominica, Guyana, Maldives, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Saint Lucia.

8. Energy resources

16. During the reporting period, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to carry out technical cooperation projects in various small island developing States in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. A compilation of success stories related to, inter alia, energy matters is currently under way and will be published on the Small Island Developing States Network web page upon completion.

9. Tourism resources

17. Within the framework of the International Year of Ecotourism, 2002, the World Tourism Organization organized three conferences on ecotourism in 2001. A conference specially designated to the Sustainable Development and Management of Ecotourism in Small Island Developing States and other islands held in Seychelles presented four thematic areas, policies and planning, regulation, marketing and promotion and monitoring of ecotourism activities, to participants from public, private and non-governmental organization sectors, as well as local communities. The World Tourism Organization Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development of Ecotourism, hosted by Maldives, served to disseminate best practices throughout public, private, non-governmental organizations and academic sectors and

local communities. In April 2002, a regional Conference on Sustainable Development of Ecotourism in the South Pacific Islands was held in Fiji.

18. The development of sustainable tourism policies and guidelines is of crucial importance to small island developing States, as tourism is one of the major income sources of such countries. In this context, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assisted selected small island developing States at various conferences in their preparations for specific policy issues, such as tourism. The high-level meeting on tourism in least developed countries held in Gran Canaria in March 2001, jointly organized by UNCTAD and the World Tourism Organization, with funding from the Government of Spain, was of particular interest to small island developing States. The outcome, the "Canary Islands Declaration on Tourism in the Least Developed Countries" and an associated plan of action were presented in the segment on international trade, commodities and tourism of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Biodiversity resources

19. In this area, UNEP coordinated the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/UNEP regional project Caribbean Environment, with involvement of the private sector, in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative. The aim of the project was to promote sustainable tourism practices through integrated coastal area management, best management practices in water and solid waste treatment and siting and design of tourist facilities.

20. Following the most recent meeting of the subsidiary body of the Convention on Biodiversity, a pilot project was launched to assess the impact of invasive alien species in small islands and an initiative on the development of rapid assessment methodologies is being carried out in cooperation with small island developing States.

11. National institutions and administrative capacity

21. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues to execute a wide range of programmes designed to improve the governance, management and performance of industry in small island developing States, in order to reduce the environmental impacts globally.

22. During the reporting period, UNEP convened two regional symposiums on the judiciary's role in promoting sustainable development in both the Caribbean and the South Pacific region. The main objectives of these symposiums were to: (a) examine developments in the field of environmental law and their implications for promoting the goals of environment and development; (b) review the role that courts of law have played in strengthening environmental law and in promoting compliance and enforcement; and (c) develop and implement follow-up activities to enhance networking and access to information and material on environmental law.

12. Transport and communication

23. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has continued its efforts to improve transport services and facilities in small island developing States with special emphasis on safety measures, as well as environmental protection based on sustainable, energy-efficient and low-cost transportation solutions. ICAO work encompasses, in particular, regular information dissemination regarding the development and application of relevant international policy guidelines and norms and standards through training and expert workshops. Technical cooperation projects are currently being implemented in Bahamas, Barbados, Cape Verde, Cuba, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Maldives, Sao Tome and Principe and Trinidad and Tobago. All support by ICAO is aimed at improving the sustainable economic and social development of small island developing States, in particular through the enhancement of the air transport sector, based on sustainable principles. In addition, several workshops and seminars were held. These include: a workshop on airports and route facility management for the Americas and the Caribbean, held in Montreal on 15 and 16 April 2002; a seminar on aviation security for the Asia/Pacific region, held in Hong Kong from 27 to 31 May 2002; and a statistics workshop for the Asia/Pacific region, held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 August 2002.

13. Vulnerability index

24. Organizations are still concentrating their efforts on collecting relevant data on different criteria or aspects of vulnerability. The work of UNEP, for

example, has focused on providing support to the development of an Environmental vulnerability index that is robust, operational and provides a relatively quick and inexpensive way of characterizing the vulnerability of natural systems, while taking into consideration the special characteristics of small island developing States. In 2001, UNEP and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission held an International Expert Group Meeting on the environmental vulnerability index to facilitate the collection of data from a global suite of countries in order to test the index.

25. UNCTAD continued to pay particular attention to the vulnerability of least developed small island developing States in an exercise aimed at assisting the Committee for Development Policy and the Economic and Social Council in their consideration of the situation of the least developed countries vis-à-vis the thresholds of graduation from least developed country status.

26. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), through its Risk and Disaster Section, is presently developing a vulnerability assessment tool targeted at local authorities and national Governments. The tool is currently being tested in several countries of South-East Asia and its application will be introduced in the Caribbean region in 2003. The testing and developing of such a tool will include the eventual production of vulnerability indicators for national action and international monitoring. It is also envisaged that such inputs will contribute to the UN-Habitat's aim of developing a good urban governance index that could be compatible with other indexes, including a vulnerability index that takes into account the particular needs of small island developing States.

27. The South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission continued its efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of environmental vulnerability of small island developing States through its work on the further refinement and development of an environmental vulnerability index covering all Pacific countries. Environmental vulnerability profiles are being compiled for all its member countries and there is an increasing interest by countries beyond small island developing States to get involved. Progress to date has been achieved with regard to improved international awareness of the environmental vulnerability index through regular presentations at key regional and international forums, as well as several newly published documents, including progress reports that have been widely distributed. Two new environmental vulnerability index databases have been established: a country-focused global database and an indicator-focused database. However, of 32 target countries, minimal data have been collected for only half, owing to limited availability of country data.

14. Trade

28. The European Commission has reported that the Cotonou negotiations for the setting of a new trading arrangement based on the establishment of "economic partnership agreements" will start by September 2002 and enter into force by 1 January 2008. They will include a 12-year transitional period for the liberalization of trade in terms of reciprocity and will lead to a regime that is fully compatible with the World Trade Organization.

29. During the reporting period, UNCTAD assisted small island developing States in formulating policies and preparations for negotiations dealing with economic liberalization and globalization issues at several recent international conferences. The support was aimed at either to increase small island developing States competitiveness of existing policies, or to seize new trade benefits and opportunities. UNCTAD had been helping small island developing States in their preparations for the World Trade Organization negotiations to be held in Doha in 2001 through technical expertise by formulating requests for issue-specific trade concessions, in particular in the agriculture sector, and increasing awareness of small island developing States vulnerabilities.

15. Implementation, monitoring and review

30. With regard to the monitoring and review of the development of small island developing States, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in which it established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The functions of the Office are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of

Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/56/645, para. 17).

B. Regional level

1. African region

31. The Indian Ocean Commission reported a number of activities and projects relating to several chapters of the Programme of Action: in the area of climate change, the Commission contributed to the project on climate change and sea level monitoring, assisting Indian Ocean Commission countries in completing their greenhouse gas emission inventories and vulnerability assessments. Regarding natural and environmental disasters, the Commission recently completed a regional programme on meteorological cooperation, funded by the European Union, which focused on the tropical cyclone issue, through installing various equipment and facilitating information-sharing. Further action in this field includes a World Bank-funded project on the fight against oil spill and the implementation of a regional programme setting up the frame for a concerted regional response to natural disasters. Two documents have been prepared, on an integrated approach for the minimization of non-biodegradable waste and on an inventory of hazardous wastes and development of strategy for national and regional waste reduction, respectively. Both documents aim at waste reduction and handling of wastes. In addition, the Commission is undertaking a number of projects in the area of coastal and marine resources, such as the Regional Environmental Programme, supported by the European Union which focuses on integrated coastal zone management; and regional programmes aimed at the sustainable management of fisheries. The Commission has also completed a regional programme for tourism that aimed at presenting the whole region as a tourist destination and which focuses on marketing and training aspects. In the area of biodiversity, a regional project on aromatic and medicinal plants is under way, the objectives of which are to produce an inventory of these plants within member countries and to set up a regional database.

2. Caribbean region

32. CARICOM has reported that specific action has been taken in a number of areas to promote the Barbados Programme of Action. To address the issue of climate change, for example, 12 CARICOM member countries have continued to be involved in the implementation of the regional project entitled "Caribbean planning for adaptation to global climate change". In the field of energy, the CARICOM secretariat will host a Project Management Unit, which will be responsible for the implementation of phase two of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Project, consisting of designing a region-wide approach to help remove obstacles to self-reliance in energy. In the area of disaster management, a six-year Caribbean Mitigation Project, financed by USAID, was recently completed. CARICOM has also established, on a pilot basis, a mechanism for capacity-building and more effective participation of the region in the implementation and negotiation of new or revised multilateral agreements or instruments.

33. The European Commission continued to support national and regional programmes in many Caribbean small island developing States covering various areas of the Programme of Action.

34. The UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CAR/RCU) is executing a regional component for a UNDP/GEF project on the rehabilitation of contaminated bays in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, and Havana Bay, Cuba. The project includes both nutrient removal components for new sewage treatment facilities and various region-wide training courses on sewage treatment technologies.

35. The subregional headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is currently developing databases which provide information on sustainable development and the implementation of programmes to assess the impact of natural disasters. ECLAC also undertakes assessments of the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters upon request. In this regard, the methodology has been refined to make it relevant to the circumstances of small island developing States.

36. The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has supported selected countries in this subregion regarding environmental protection and rehabilitation, as well as reduction of environmental vulnerability, as per countries' request and pending availability of funds. The project has thus far covered Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and

Montserrat. A regional consultation on environmental vulnerability is scheduled to be held in Cuba during 2002, to discuss preparedness and performance of national and local institutions to deal with this issue, as well as current legal and regulatory frameworks. This consultation is a partnership between UN-Habitat, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (Geneva) and the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

C. National level

37. Sweden is supporting Cuba, on a bilateral basis, in dealing with radioactive waste management. The project is aimed at upgrading the competence of Cuban experts and institutions according to the International Atomic Energy Agency standards in field emergency preparedness, environmental protection, natural radioactivity and protection of workers.

38. Norway has provided financial as well as technical support to small island developing States through its bilateral programming and with a special emphasis on capacity-building and human resources development.

39. The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has approved a large programme to support the Caribbean regional strategy to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. In the South Pacific, it has started a new project that will enhance local non-governmental organization capacities to carry out projects in various fields relating to the Barbados Programme of Action. In addition, Canada is broadly promoting regional organizations and programmes dealing with climate change policies and adaptation measures for all small island developing States regions. Through its recently established Canada Climate Change Development Fund initiative, it is planning to provide support to the further implementation of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme Strategy Framework. Another project will help strengthen and create public and private sector institutional capacities in the Caribbean to respond to climate change. In the field of disaster response and reduction, a Disaster Management Fund project for the Caribbean has been approved by CIDA. Canada is also engaged on issues of globalization and trade that are of special concern to small island developing States, and is providing direct support to small island developing States of the Caribbean to build their capacity for trade policy, trade negotiations and the implementation of agreed trade-related obligations. As of 2001, CIDA approved the third phase of a programme for the strengthening of economic management in the Eastern Caribbean region. Furthermore, Canada continues to help small island developing States to overcome constraints of communication and lack of Internet connections through financial support to the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas that is currently developing information and communication technology initiatives in the Caribbean small island developing States.

40. Regarding climate change and sea level rise, Barbados reported that its inventory for greenhouse gases as stipulated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has already been completed and that a second draft of the National Circumstances report is currently under preparation. In addition, Barbados has been active in the development of a region-wide Inventory of Coastal Resources and Use and the collection of data for formulating the regional coastal resource information systems. With regard to natural and environmental disasters, Barbados reported that the coordination capacity of the Central Emergency Relief Organization is being strengthened through the development of a national disaster management plan which is currently under review. The agency is also training the national and regional hotel and tourism sector, and facilitating the formulation of a disaster management plan for the tourism sector. In the field of waste management, Barbados reported improvements in the disposal and management of wastes as a result of the ongoing Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme coordinated by the Sewage and Solid Waste Project Unit. Concerning Freshwater Resources, Barbados participated in regional water resource initiatives such as the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute's regional project on the Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas. In the field of tourism resources, Barbados is currently finalizing a policy document, entitled "Sustainable development of tourism in Barbados — a policy framework", outlining the country's approach to sustainable tourism development, containing recommendations on financial and economic aspects, cultural issues and the natural environment. A national programme of work is in place in Barbados for attaining the goals set out in the

Convention on Biological Diversity, focusing on increasing public awareness of the importance of local biodiversity, its conservation and management, and developing and implementing a programme of action to facilitate effective management of the biodiversity resources of Barbados. Barbados is also developing a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with financial help from GEF.

III. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

41. An account is given below of the activities undertaken on an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area.

42. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to support the Caribbean States and Territories in developing and upgrading national maritime administrations, primary and secondary maritime legislation and administrative, legal, scientific and technical capacities to ensure sustainable development and the implementation and enforcement of IMO and other treaties and instruments dealing with maritime safety, the protection of the marine environment and the facilitation of international maritime traffic. In 2002, IMO started a regional programme to further develop capacities in the Caribbean with respect to the effective implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and the Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response in Cooperation, which will be completed in 2003. In 2001, IMO participated actively in a meeting convened by ECLAC, entitled "Towards the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: adoption of an updated joint work programme". As a result of that meeting, the Programme of Action for the Caribbean has been updated to take fully into account the technical assistance programmes that IMO is currently executing in the region's maritime transport and port sectors. These regional programmes include advisory services for the development of national maritime legislation, co-financed by UNDP and the Government of France; capacity-building for ship surveying and inspection, financed by the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Transport Workers' Federation; development and updating of national and regional contingency plans to respond to, combat and control marine pollution caused by ships, co-financed by the Governments of Finland and France; the enhancement of maritime safety and further assistance on maritime training and further development of flag and port State control capacities, co-financed by the International Transport Workers' Federation; the further development of maritime safety administrations; the prevention and control of marine pollution through, inter alia, a regional one-week workshop in Jamaica, supported by the United States of America Environmental Protection Agency; maritime/port security; port safety and security, co-financed by the European Commission; a Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre, financed by the Governments of France, the Netherlands Antilles and the United States; and a programme to strengthen effective maritime administration in the Caribbean, co-financed by UNDP.

43. The European Commission, in close collaboration with the Belize Coastal Zone Management, has undertaken a project in Belize on land-use practices and their impact on near shore environment. The purpose of the second phase of the project was to increase local capacity to incorporate watershed-reef connectivity considerations into policy, planning and management dialogue and decision-making. Data access and processing systems have been developed from satellite imagery, enabling low-cost water-quality monitoring of Belize's coastal waters. Formal training in remote sensing and familiarization with monitoring systems has been provided to local institutions. The project, which was completed in March 2002, included a land-management policy proposal to control erosion. The European Commission also funded a project on sustainability of the Negril Marine Park in Jamaica. The current second phase of the Commission's support to the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society aims at providing assistance in maintaining and increasing foreign exchange earnings through tourism, while protecting the fragile coastal environment of Negril, especially the coral reef ecosystem. Among the expected outcomes of the project are: (a) the establishment by the Government of Jamaica of a user fee system; (b) Government subventions; and (c) collection of commissions for licensing fees for the use of natural resources.

44. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reported that the nineteenth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee endorsed the Subregional Office in taking a lead role in the execution of the technical work required for the further development and eventual implementation of the proposal of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea.

45. The CARICOM secretariat is currently involved in discussions with CIDA to develop and execute a programme for ocean governance, management and development.

46. Directly addressing degradation as a result from ships in the Caribbean Sea, GEF is supporting the "Wider Caribbean Initiative on Ship-Generated Waste", which is implemented by the World Bank and dedicated to the problems of pollution from ships wastes and oil spills. In addition, a project concept entitled "Environmental protection of the Gulf of Honduras and maritime transport control", under development by the Inter-American Development Bank, is supported by GEF. This project concept proposes to cover activities to protect ecosystems from navigational hazards, overfishing, and land-based sources of pollution, responding to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and other agreements. Other GEF-financed projects addressing pollution from land-based sources include the "Formulation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Integrated Management of Water Resources and the Sustainable Development of the San Juan River Basin and its Coastal Zone", promoting national management between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and the protection of biodiversity of the coastal environment through integrated basin management; a project entitled "Reduction of pesticide runoff to the Caribbean" in a number of Central American countries and Colombia; and a major project, entitled "Integrated catchments area and coastal zone management in small island developing States in the Caribbean", which is being prepared to address in an integrated manner coastal management, near shore fisheries and freshwater resources protection.

47. In the Caribbean, UNEP has carried out several projects on integrated coastal areas management and developed guidelines for integrated planning and management of coastal and marine areas in the wider Caribbean region. Furthermore, UNEP, in collaboration with the Engineering Centre for the Environmental Management of Bays and Coastal Areas (*Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas*) in Cuba, is preparing the "Marine and Coastal Assessment Report of the Caribbean" which is aimed at assisting the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a comprehensive programme for the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea. In addition, UNEP implemented a project on capacity-building in integrated environmental assessments and environmental information management by initiating workshops for high-level technical experts responsible for coordinating the environment/development reporting process, and by developing a training manual on capacity-building for integrated environmental assessments and reporting. In the area of waste management, two regional workshops are being prepared with a view to encouraging and facilitating early ratification of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and related conventions, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, respectively. UNEP also reported that it is coordinating a GEF project on integrating management of watersheds and coastal areas in Caribbean small island developing States, which addresses a number of areas of concern, such as, inter alia, coastal area management and biodiversity, tourism development, protection of water supplies, land-based sources of pollution and climate change by strengthening institutional capacity at the national and regional levels, providing assistance to countries in understanding the linkages between the requirement for, and meeting national priorities within the regional context. Other UNEP programmes address oil spill response and contingency planning in many Caribbean small island developing States through, inter alia, the establishment of a regional training and information centre (the regional activity centre) in Curaçao, as offered by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, which was formally established in 2001. Further regional UNEP programmes are aimed at demonstrating sustainable alternatives to DDT for malaria vector control in Mexico and Central America, reducing the environmental impact from tropical shrimp trawling through by-catch reduction technologies and management changes, a participatory approach to managing the environment.

48. The Government of Barbados and relevant regional organizations are working to establish a

technical working group to identify and elaborate on all aspects comprising an integrated management approach. Regarding coastal and marine resources, the Coastal Zone Management Unit of Barbados has achieved a number of positive results in protecting and preserving coastal resources, through activities such as research and monitoring of coral reef health and beach erosion resulting from storm events, improved education on issues affecting the coastal and marine environment, improving the efficiency of the coastal planning process by upgrading the database on coastal development, updating the unit's geographic information systems development, and coastal engineering, including the establishment of permanent moorings along the south and west coasts.

49. Jamaica reported that, during its nineteenth session, in 2002, the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee discussed, inter alia, efforts to bring together existing information on environmental activities, for example, management of coastal areas, within the Caribbean region. The country is currently in the process of bringing domestic legislation in line with the provisions of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities. The Jamaican National Environment and Planning Agency is currently developing several policies, attendant mechanisms and legislation aimed at the protection and preservation of the marine environment. These include a national policy for the conservation of sea grass, a beach policy, a watershed policy, environmental management systems, an ocean and coastal zone management policy, a policy on beach erosion, and an underwater cable and pipelines policy. In addition, Jamaica has in place plans relating to disasters at sea, including an oil spill plan (for land and sea), a national hazardous materials contingency plan and a drafted search and rescue plan. Complementing the Government's actions, the Shipping Association of Jamaica, a private sector organization, is planning to establish a waste reception facility at the port in Kingston.

50. Sweden is providing financial aid through a trust fund for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is aimed at implementing the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), a regional marine convention for the wider Caribbean region covering 30 countries. The Convention focuses on integrated coastal zone management, strategic planning for heavily polluted bays and technical assistance.

51. The United States reported that it is a party to, inter alia, the Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region. The United States signed the Protocols to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, but both still await approval by the Senate. Being a founding member of the Caribbean Environment Programme, the United States actively supports its activities related to the latter two Protocols through annual contributions to the UNEP Trust Fund. In the area of oil pollution preparedness, the United States is providing pollution response assistance to other parties, and the United States Coast Guard-led federal Caribbean Regional Response Team in Puerto Rico provides oil spill response and response training capability to the wider Caribbean region. In support of sustainable development in the region, the United States provides ad hoc funding, expertise and foreign assistance through, inter alia, USAID projects on sustainable tourism and wastewater amelioration projects in select countries, and through its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which supports projects in fisheries and marine protected areas. In recognition of the work to be done in sustainable development and in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United States-led "White Water to Blue Water" partnership is focusing on cross-sectoral management of watershed and marine resources in the region through capacity-building at the national and regional levels to implement the many conventions and protocols negotiated since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. A regional stakeholders' conference will be sponsored in early mid-2003 to kick-start the initiative, identify gaps in approaches to sustainable development of Caribbean States, and to promote partnerships among the relevant stakeholders.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

52. Although many international and regional organizations, as well as national Governments and non-governmental groups, were approached in preparation for the present report, only limited information was submitted. In order to provide an adequate and thorough overview of activities carried out at all levels, in particular at the local and national levels, further support for small island developing States is needed to ensure comprehensive reporting and feedback. In addition, there is scope for improvement of information provision and sharing among all stakeholders dealing with small island developing States issues that needs to be addressed, and the wider use and application of information technology tools, such as the Small Island Developing States Network, as to enhance it, might be considered. It is envisaged that the next phase of the Network will assist the process of information-sharing, especially on programmes that may be of interest to the Governments of small island developing States. In addition, further outreach is required to enable small island developing States and their regional and subregional organizations to provide information of the highest relevance to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and regional levels.

53. The information obtained indicates a continued support from some national Governments and United Nations agencies, within their relevant mandates, for issues relating to the Barbados Programme of Action. Ongoing and new programmes and projects have overwhelmingly been directed at institutional and technical capacity-building and the development of human resources. In particular, the issues of climate change adaptation measures, tourism and coastal management have been a major focus of activities.

54. In regard to the work on the vulnerability indexes, it should be noted that the Economic and Social Council will consider the report of the Committee on Development Policy at its substantive session in July 2002, and will provide further guidance on the subject as appropriate. The General Assembly may wish to consider what further actions are required to fulfil previous General Assembly resolutions pertaining to the completion of work on vulnerability indexes.

55. In relation to the issues pertaining to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development, it should be noted that countries of the region, assisted by their regional organizations, have greatly increased their activities. Key treaties are being ratified or acceded to, and the General Assembly may wish to consider what further information is required in that regard. The General Assembly may also consider issues of promoting coordination and cooperation among and between the various initiatives reported on.